

Report of:	Meeting	Date
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Licensing Committee	28 th March 2023

Tri-annual Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey
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1.	Purpose of report	
	1.1	To inform members of the Committee of the outcome of the 2022 Wyre hackney carriage unmet demand survey.
2.	Outcomes	
	2.1	Members will be fully informed by independent review of any unmet demand for hackney carriages in the borough.
3.	Recommendation/s	
	3.1	Members acknowledge the conclusions of the Unmet Demand Survey carried out by LVSA (via CTS Traffic and Transportation Ltd), that observed unmet demand in Wyre generally remains below the level that would see significant unmet demand levels but that attention and action is now required to increase levels of vehicle activity in Poulton-le-Fylde during the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings.
	3.2	That members reaffirm the Council's position and continue to limit the number of hackney carriage licences issued by this Council to 160.
4.	Background	
	4.1	The Transport Act 1985 provides for a local authority to limit the number of hackney carriages in its area, but only if it is satisfied that there is no significant unmet demand for the services of hackney carriages and that there are sufficient numbers of hackney carriages to service the needs of passengers within the Borough.
	4.2	The number of hackney carriage plates issued in Wyre has been restricted to 160 since 1974.

	4.3	The determination of unmet demand is informed by the outcome of a comprehensive survey undertaken by independent and experienced transport consultants.
	4.4	The Department for Transport (DfT) recommend that unmet demand surveys only remain valid for three years, the last such survey was undertaken in Wyre in 2018. However, on 25 th February 2021, the Licensing Committee of Wyre Council resolved to postpone the full rank Unmet Demand Survey until 2022 because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
5.	Key issues and proposals	
	5.1	LVSA were commissioned in March 2022 to carry out the tri-annual unmet demand survey within the borough.
	5.2	The survey of hackney carriage operation in Wyre was carried out between March 2022 and January 2023. On street and driver consultation occurred in July with rank work in July (very similar to previous studies). An additional disability user survey was also prepared and circulated by the Council.
	5.3	A representative from LVSA will attend the meeting via video link to present the results of the 2022 survey (Appendix 1).
	5.4	The conclusion from the report is that “there is evidence of unmet demand for the services of hackney carriages which is significant at this point in time in the Wyre Council Licensing area”. However, the report goes on to make it clear that the issue of further plates is not recommended at this time. Additionally, it also makes clear that work is required to address the provision of service in Poulton-le-Fylde (but that in the consultants experience extra plates would not achieve this aim).
	5.5	Should members agree to maintain the current restrictions of 160 hackney carriage licences, a further study will be commissioned in 2025, subject to any changes in legislation. The administrative charge levied on hackney carriage vehicle licences will continue to pay for future studies.
	5.6	However, if the “peaky” demand identified in Poulton-le-Fylde increases in the intervening period, a further small-scale study is highly likely to be commissioned. Such review could form part of any future consideration of suitable ways to incentivise drivers to work on beyond midnight on Friday and Saturday nights in Poulton-le-Fylde.
	5.7	The previous survey report outlined that licensed premises in Poulton-le-Fylde agreed to work together in December 2018 to fund two temporary taxi marshals. The taxi marshals had worked from approximately 01:00 hours on Saturdays and Sundays to alleviate some of the problems that drivers were reporting with prospective customers’ unruly behaviour. This was very much a trial month facilitated through the Pubwatch scheme and

	has not since been replicated. However, members should note that talks relating to implementing a scheme have recently started. Over the coming months it is hoped that licensees and taxi companies will work together to develop a permanent scheme capable of addressing the issues highlighted in the LVSA report.
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Financial and legal implications	
Finance	The £14,245 cost of the survey has been funded from the aggregate of accumulated £20 unmet demand surcharges that are included in the fees for hackney carriage vehicle licences. As such there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Legal	Should anyone be aggrieved by the Council's decision to limit the number of Hackney Carriages they may challenge the decision through the judicial review process. This survey provides the evidence base for the Council's decision and could be relied upon if a legal challenge were brought.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	✓
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
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Patrick Cantley	01253887281	patrick.cantley@wyre.gov.uk	14 th March 2023
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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
N/A		

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – 2022 Hackney Carriage Demand Survey